

secondary to promoting their own political agenda. Are the Democrats so scared of George Bush that they would inject politics into the census, the very week people are filling out their forms and mailing them in? Sadly the answer can only be yes.

Are the Democrats so afraid that we will retain the House in the upcoming election that they would risk alienating people from participating in the census? Once again, the sad answer is yes.

While it is no secret that our parties and the presidential candidates differ on the use of estimated numbers for purposes of adjustment, the fact that you could not simply promote the census during this most crucial of weeks is very disappointing.

Democrats have stated all along that they want everyone to fill out their forms to assist the Bureau in getting the best count ever. I now wonder whether this was merely a ruse you maintained to harbor another objective. The Democrat message on Wednesday to the American people was "Don't worry about filling out your form—let the government estimate where you are." The effect of these statements is to undermine a good mail-back response rate. There is a very good chance that statistical sampling will be found illegal for redistricting as it was found illegal by the Supreme Court for reapportionment. Supporters of sampling are selling people a false bill of goods.

Let's face reality for a moment—the Supreme Court ruled last January that sampling cannot be used for apportionment and that the Census Bureau must conduct a full enumeration. Therefore your attack on Presidential candidate George Bush is ludicrous. And as we both know, the National Academy of Sciences has yet to endorse the complex ACE estimation plan. In fact, at last month's NAS meeting there was much debate on both sides of the issue and it was clear that there was uncertainty. To suggest that the NAS has endorsed the specifics of ACE is to mislead the American people.

In conclusion, I think that those that participated in last night's ambush on Republicans have done far more to hurt the census efforts than you all may believe. Many Americans are concerned about the intrusiveness of the long form. Even the Bureau acknowledges that many of their phone calls and emails are complaints. All offices are fielding numerous calls from upset constituents. In fact, you could not have picked a worse day in a worse week to make your purely partisan political diatribe.

Last night, on the House floor, you had an opportunity to do one of two things: Promote the census and the importance of mailing back the forms, or use the opportunity for political grandstanding. Unfortunately, you chose the latter. To insert the debate over sampling and to take cheap shots at Governor Bush will not motivate one single person to fill out their census form and mail it in.

I can only hope that American people can see through your partisan motives and rhetoric and realize that the answer to their needs will not be met by a statistical silver bullet and that despite your obvious attempts to dissuade them, will fill out their census forms.

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 376, OPEN-MARKET REORGANIZATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNI- CATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of the conference agreement on satellite communications reform. This is an important bill that will revise our laws to encourage more competition in the global satellite communication services market and deliver more choices to consumers. I strongly urge its adoption.

The conference agreement eliminates antiquated statutory barriers that have prevented the purchase of COMSAT. I am very pleased that the conferees dropped the Level IV direct access rules which would have unfairly taken value away from COMSAT shareholders. It also repeals the ownership cap on COMSAT without conditions, rather than making it contingent upon unrelated events as the House bill would have. In addition, the bill sets forth an effective roadmap for INTELSAT and Inmarsat to transition from intergovernmental organizations to truly pro-competitive, privatized entities.

I want to stress that while the bill gives the FCC authority to assess and evaluate INTELSAT's and Inmarsat's privatization efforts, nothing in this bill gives the FCC authority to control the business operations of these entities after they have attained a pro-competitive privatization. The bill will encourage the transition of INTELSAT and Inmarsat into normal, commercial entities so the global satellite market will be more competitive. Once privatization is achieved, INTELSAT and Inmarsat will be regulated by the FCC like any other business in the global satellite communications market.

Again, I am pleased that we will finally pass a bill that will truly level the playing field in the satellite communications services market, and I commend the Conferees for producing such a good, bipartisan bill.

## NEW TESTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a copy of a letter to the editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel written by Mr. Steve Cywinski, one of my constituents from South Milwaukee. I submit this letter to be included in the RECORD.

## NEW TESTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

I was very impressed with the article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Sen. William Proxmire ("Proxmire honored for sharp eye on money," Dec. 8). He served from 1957-'89. His mission was to cut wasteful spending. He was credited with 168 Golden Fleece awards. My question: Is Bill Proxmire the only one of some 500 politicians in Washington, DC, who had his eyes and ears open?

I would propose hearing and eye tests for politicians before being sworn into office.

STEVE CYWINSKI,  
South Milwaukee.

## PROPOSED ACCOUNTING RULE CHANGES FOR TECHNOLOGY MERGERS

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, in today's rapidly growing technology and information markets, the need for maintaining an accounting system that is best suited to handle the growing trend of technology sector mergers is key. The "pooling" system of accounting has made possible some of the largest mergers of our time; without this system the unifications of Netscape/AOL, Citicorp/Travelers, NationsBank/Bank of America, and Daimler/Chrysler quite possibly would have never taken place, reducing innovation and benefits to consumers.

Current regulations allow many high-tech companies to take advantage of this "pooling" system of accounting, which allows corporations to easily merge without attaching a goodwill accounting charge. This is the amount paid in an acquisition that is added to the fair market value of a company's tangible assets. If the Financial Accounting Standards Board has its way, it would require that all mergers be viewed not as the melding of separate entities, but as a direct purchase, forcing companies to accept the purchase method of accounting. This system worked for the bricks and mortar corporations of the past, but in the age of high-tech companies whose value lies in information, the purchase method of accounting has no place.

Forcing these high-tech/high performance companies to use the direct purchase accounting system will only serve to stifle growth and limit our country's edge in this information age. We should take every opportunity to support and ensure continued innovation and expansion in this technology sector that has done so much to energize our economy. This can be accomplished if we say yes to the continuation of pooling mergers, and no to attempts to further regulate this important sector of our economy.

## GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK HONOR MICHAEL TIGUE

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael F. Tigue. This year the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick will honor Mr. Tigue as "Man of the Year" at their 86th annual St. Patrick's Day banquet. I am honored to have been asked to participate in this prestigious event.

Michael Tigue is a lifelong resident of Hightstown, in my District in Pennsylvania. In the early days of the coal industry, young boys